

left her in the fortieth year of her age; ) thereby perhaps deceived, because there was never either stone or gravel voided by her. But her last *Doctor* (from whom I have this relation,) adjudged it to proceed *ab affectu Nephritico & quidam gravissimo*. This person, when dead of these distempers, was opened by this her last Physician, and among many other common *Phænomena* he found the left *Kidney* filled with large stones, but the right wholly petrified, covered with the ordinary skin without any flesh; the half of which (the other being broken by injurious dissection) representing still the *Kidney*, I have seen, which was both massy and ponderous, so concreted by the closer coalition of minute sand, which might be rubbed off by your finger.

The other was a Lad about nineteen years old, who from his Cradle was disposed to a Consumption, accompanied with continual Coughing, great emaciation and continual heat, so that he was reduced to a *Skeleton*, and labouring under this distemper died. Being opened, a great quantity of watry matter run out at the *abdomen*, of a chylous consistence; most, yea almost all the glanduls of the *Mesentery*, through which pass the *venæ lacteæ*, were extraordinary great and hardned beyond the hardness of a *Scirrhus*. The Breast being opened, the Lungs were found grown to it round about, almost inseparable, full of purulent ulcers, but more especially the left side, obstructed and filled with much gravel and small stones; yea, whole pieces of the Lungs, especially the extremities, about the thickness of a finger and more, were hardned into a stony matter.

*An Account of Four Books.*

I. *Francisci de le Boe Sylvii PRAXIS MEDICÆ Idea nova*. Lugduni Batav. 1671.

THE Learned and Experienced Author of this work, desiring to furnish his Auditors with a compendious *Medical Practise*, and to do it after the Method of that Excellent and Happy Physician *Platerus*, did propose to himself to handle chiefly of the more *Simple Affections* of the Humane Body, because they being well understood, the knowledge of those that are *Complicate* will not be difficult to attain.

C c c

But

But considering with himself, that Mans good Health consists in and is known by the Integrity and good disposition of all his *Functions*; and want of Health, in and by the indisposition and depravation of the same, he thought fit to treat of those *Affections*, that occur in the Practice of Physicians, according to the difference of those depraved *Functions*. And forasmuch as these *Functions* serve either for the *Conservation* of the *Individual*, or the *Propagation* of the *Species*; and the former of these is conveniently subdivided into the *Natural*, serving for the various charge of substances taken inwardly, and the *Animal Functions*, consisting in the knowledge of all sorts of things by the External and Internal senses, as also in the various Motion of the Soul and Body; He therefore distributeth this whole *Praxis* into *three Books*, which treat of the *Affections*, respecting the Indisposed *Functions* of Man. I. The *Natural*. II. The *Animal*; and III. Those that serve for *Generation*.

We shall not enlarge here by representing any particulars of this Work, but refer the Judicious Reader to its perusal and consideration, by which as he will doubtless meet with many useful Medical Prescriptions and Remedies, so he will not find it barren of considerable Observations and Experiments relating to Natural Philosophy, and in particular to Anatomy.

II. *Relazione dello Stato presente dell' EGYPTO, scritta dal Sig. Gio. Michaelè Vanflebio, è dedicata al Grand Duca di Toscana. In Parigi, 1670. in 12°.*

PAssing by what this Relation observeth of the Political Government of *Egypt*, and the Original Language and Religion of the *Cophthos*, (which maketh a great part of the Book, but is not suitable with the design of these Tracts,) we shall take some notice of what it delivers concerning the Natural State and Productions of the Country, the Oeconomy of the Inhabitants, and the Magnificent Structures yet remaining there.

First then the Author observeth, that the winter of *Egypt* is so mild, as to be like to the March-air of *Rome*; and that the usual time of *Rain* is in the months of *December*, *January* and *February*, and that principally about the Sea-coast: Of *Tempests*, from *Easter* to *Whitsontide*, when the Wind is for the most

most part Easterly: Of the most agreeable weather, in *November* and *December*, when the Countrey is dry'd again from the *Nile* waters, and all things in a verdure, the winds gentle and the Sun tolerable: Of the violent heats, in *April*, *May*, *June*, and further till the inundation of the *Nile* cooleth the Air: which begins in *July* and ends in *September* or *October*; and proveth the great and general manure of that Country, when it ariseth above sixteen *braccia* or Italian Ells; beneath which when it stops, the Inhabitants are not obliged to pay any tribute to the G. Signior. The cause of this Inundation as 'tis principally the plenty of rain falling in *Abyssinia*, so this Author taketh in the *Northerly* winds beginning in *June*, and lasting till *October*, and hindering the waters of the *Nile* from discharging themselves into the Mediteranean. These waters being generally esteem'd very good, are clear'd from their turbidness by bitter Almonds beaten and thrown in.

When he speaketh of the Animals of *Egypt*, he taketh particular notice of the great variety and abundance of *Birds* there.

When he specifieth the vast number of *Vegetables*, he giveth an account of the various uses of the *Dattil-tree*, and particularly, that the stones of *Dates* are given to *Camels* in long voyages; as also, that *Horses* as long as they feed upon *Trefoil*, have no drink given them.

Treating of the *Fossils* of *Egypt*, he observeth, that their *Niter* is most abounding in the Desert of *St. Macare*; and that about *Thebe* there is digged up store of *Marble*, *Porphyre*, *Alabaster*, *Granates*, &c.

*Secondly*, as to the *Oeconomy* of the Egyptians, he relateth at large their practise of Agriculture, and noteth, that they do not cut, but pull up their Corn, and that their Corn-harvest is from the middle of *April* to the middle of *May*; yea that sometimes even before the middle of *April* new bread is eaten in *Cairo*. In Villages, for want of Ovens, they bake their Bread under the hot Ashes; and, in making their bread, some put *Niter* into the dough, to raise and colour it: which must be eaten new, or else 'tis not good. Among their Drinks they have 1. *Meath*, which, though it inebriateth, yet they are permitted to drink, though wine be forbidden them: 2. A Liquor very refreshing, made by the *Mores* of *Licorish*.

As to their way of Building, distinctions observ'd in Cloathing, and their Fuel, I refer to the Authour himself.

Thirdly, concerning the remainders of the Antient Buildings this Author delivers many particulars, consonant to what others have written of the same, as *Pyramids, Obelisks, Aqueducts*, the Column of *Pompey*, &c.

III. *Theod. Kerckringii M. D. Commentarius in CURRUM TRIMPHALEM ANTIMONII Basil. Valentini, à se Latinitate donatum. Amstelodami, 1671. in 12°.*

THIS Learned Physitian assureth the Reader in the Preface to this Book, that having carefully perused the Antimonial Treatise of *Valentin*, he tried all the particulars, ordered therein to be done; but that in the performance thereof he erred frequently, and was at great expences without success, yet not by any default of the Author, but alwaies his own; esteeming this *Basil* to be the best, the sincerest and the clearest of all Chymists he knoweth, and engaging his credit, that he being well understood, you may have what ever can be hoped for from Chymistry; Nature having lodged, as he thinks, all her Treasures in this Mineral, p.42.

In his Commentary upon this *Chariot* he intimateth to have delivered some *Encheresfes* or Manual Operations, which, how slight soever they may seem, he saith have cost him many thousands; adding, that patience in searching, ability in expending, unwearied attention and deep meditation, are the requisites to attain the knowledge of what is here contained.

Of the many things, that are said concerning the excellent usefulness of *Antimonial* Preparations, our Commentator extols in a very especial manner the *Red Oyl of the Glass of Antimony* of which yet he teacheth the way of preparing it but ænigmatically, though he adds, to have done it more clearly than any body declared it to him. This he affirms to be the truly *Universal Medicine*, being seasonably and rightly used; alledging (p.164 165.) a considerable Experiment of his own, made with it, importing, that by the means of this *Diaphoretick Oyl* alone he cured a young woman of a high *Dropsie* in twenty daies, making her on the fourth and the following days so to swim in water from sweat, that it dropped at length through the bed upon the floor.

Besides this, he much praiseth, for *Chirurgical* uses, the *Balsom* or *Tincture* of the *Sulphur* of *Antimony*, affirming upon his credit, that *Basil Valentin* hath not given the full due to its worth; and relating withall (p. 157. 158.) the History of a Cure, he performed with it upon a cancred Breast, that had been under the hands of some of the most expert *Chirurgions*, who judged it not curable but by cutting it off; which our Author prevented by the use and application of this Balsom, whereby within two days the matter was brought to due maturity, and, upon the joint use of some proper internal Medicines, the person in the space of two months restored to perfect health.

There is another Preparation of Antimony here described, and praised above all the rest, call'd by *Basil*, his *Balsom of Life*, by which he affirms to have cured many that were altogether despaired of, appealing herein to the testimony of his Brethren. In which he is seconded by this Commentator, who declareth, that in this Medicine is contained not only what can be made of Antimony, but almost all, what can be prosed by a Spagyrist.

For the other particulars we shall leave the Reader to the careful perusal of the Book it self, and the cautious trial of the Experiments and Operations contain'd therein.

IV. *Cogitationes Physico-Mechanicæ de Natura VISIONIS Auth.*

Johanne Ott Schaphusa-Helvetio. Heidelbergæ 1670. in 4°.

**T**HIS Author shews himself to be a great Admirer of *Algebra*, asserting this *Thesis* about it, in one of the Corollaries annexed to this Book :

*Analysis Geometrarum vera est methodus inveniendi & demonstrandi; ipsiusque ratio à Cartesio tradita quicquid Synthetis habet egregii, Cavalierii Methodus Indivisibilium abstrusi, Thomæ Hobbes Computatio veri & solidi, & Analysis Veterum absconditi plenè continet.*

And whatever he hath perform'd, he professeth he hath obtain'd by means of this *Analysis*; saying thus in his Dedication.

*Ex quo Telescopiorum Inventum mundo innotescere capit, virii variam illius rationem reddere conati sunt, & quidem omnes ferè non-nisi ex Sphæræ sectione Tuborum lentes polire tentarunt; donec Cartesius tandem Sectiones Coni negotio Dioptrico aptiores esse demonstraret. Non tamen desuerunt, qui contrarium asserendo, aut omnino inutiles esse affirmando, demonstrationibus Cartesii obstrepere.*

streperent. *Mecum verò omnium rationes perpendens, Cartesii ratiocinium firmo talo niti, Analyseos beneficio deprehendi; nec ulla in re hæsitavi, quàm quomodo figuræ illæ in Plano delineari aut solidæ materiæ induci possent. Ipsius enim Cartesii machina nimis composita videbatur, motusq; nimium complicatus; adeoque commissio in unico levi errore non posse non majorem successive generari, extra dubium erat. Quamobrem machinam quandam simplicem conficiendam esse linearum Conicarum naturam requirere sensi. Monente autem Clariss. Dom. Spleissio, Mathematico subtiliss. & Astron. Incomparabili, operi me accinxi, ac in subsidium vocatâ methodo seu Geometria Cartesii, ante triennium Machinam quandam fabrefieri curavi quæ simplicitate suâ & motûs regularitate nulli alii cederet; ea autem paucos ante menses ultimum perfectionis suæ gradum consecuta est. Absolutâ autem machinâ, operi me confestim applicui. ferro inducendo figuras Conicas, præcipuè verò Hyperbolas & Parabolas, quarum focus 1. 2. 10. 25. 50. pedes & ultra à vertice abesset. Præterquam enim quòd Instrumento meo cujuscunq; generis Hyperbolæ, Ellipses ac Parabolæ describi queunt, ut & Circuli segmentum quodcunq;, id tamen quod machinæ perfectionem commendat, hoc est, quòd nullo limite claudatur ipsius Usus; vix enim sex pedes maximâ sua extensione superat machina, ipsius tamen ope, Arcus Circuli, Ellipsis, Parabolæ, atq; Hyperbolæ delineari poterit, qui vitro insculptus tubum 10, 100, 1000 pedum requirat. In proxima verò Sylvæ Herciniæ vitraria, modulis beneficio cuneorum confectis Vitra infundere curavi, quæ quamvis inutilia fuerint ob materiem impuritatibus scatentem, attamen Coni Sectiones maximè accommodatas esse Dioptrico usui, ipsasq; in Plano delineari posse deprehendi; ita ut mediante machina mea celeberrimam istam inter nobilissimos mathematicos agitatam controversiam determinare possim.*

Concerning his Dioptrical Studies he saith, that remote from other Masters and Books, by the conduct of the Cartesian *Analysis* he hath begun to wind himself by a long *Calculus* out of the Labyrinth of Vision, and by the means of *Æquations* discover'd divers truths both theorical and practical; among which he delvers one, which commends it self both by its newness and usefulness, which is, To contract the longest Tubes, without at all prejudicing their perfection, by magnifying so much the angle of Vision, that the longest Tube shall not perform the like, the Lateral rays being so accurately secluded, that more of them shal trouble

trouble any of the longest Tubes, then those short ones of his contrivance; of which he saith he hath given the grounds in this Tra $\text{\scriptsize ct}$ : Wherein he affirms he delivers an *Hypothesis*, whereby the Nature and Manner of *Vision* is so clearly and distinctly exhibited, that no *Phænomenon* shall occur which may not be readily explained thereby; assuming to this end the most signal Experiments and Geometrical reasons; and explicating withall some *phænomena*, conducive to the same; as of Firmness, Fluidity, Refraction, Reflection, Lucidity, Transparency, Opacity, Colors, and the Parts of the Eye: In the doing of which he inserts this generous and candid Paragraph, pag. 7.

*Missis illis occultis qualitatibus & similibus, nunquam à quoquam revelandis, eorum Philosophorum modum sequi magis arridet, qui Regiam viam, desertis dumetis & spinis, calcare mutant, ex claris & distinctis principiis exordium capeffendo, atq; Experimentis Ratiocinia, in rebus præsertim Physicis, confirmando, in auxilium vocatis Geometrarum demonstrationibus, ad normam Regie indolis, Societatis Anglicanæ; quorum institutum si à ducentis jam sæculis persecutum fuisset Genus humanum, & amicâ conspiratione eorum viam legisset, quin Naturæ penetralia intimius perspecta haberemus, & Naturæ quasi Domini salutaremur, ego nullus dubito. Nunquam tamen desuerunt, qui id pro viribus præstiterunt, præsertim Mathematici & Veterum Philosophorum nonnulli; quamquam opus illud non sit unius alteriusve hominis, sed plurium, imò integræ cujusdam Societatis, ex diversis tum nationibus tum locis coagmentatæ.*

For the rest the Reader may peruse the Book it self; of which yet I fear there are but very few Copies hitherto come over, if any more than that, out of which this Accompt is given.

*An Observation concerning certain Insect-husks of the Kermes-kind communicated by Mr. Lister, May 22. 1671. which came to hand since the Printing of the former sheets.*

**I** Gave you a short account formerly\* of certain *matrices* or Insect-husks, of the *Kermes-kind*, which I had some years since observ'd on Plumb-trees. This instant *May* hath afforded me the same Observation, and some little improvement of it. I have observed the same *Pate'llæ* or Husks indifferently

\* *March 17. 1671.* I find in my Notes (saith he) that some years ago I gather'd off our English Oak round Worm-husks very like *Kermes-berries*, but I then made no trial of them. Again, I have often observed on Plumb-trees and Cherry-trees; also on the Vine and Cherry-Lawrel certain parallel or flat Husks containing worms, which 'or at least the husks; for them only I had the opportunity of making the Experiment on) will strike a Carnation with Ly and stand.

rently on *Vine-branches*, *Cherry-Laurel*, *Plumb-trees*, and the *Cherry tree*. The *figure* of the husks is round, save where it cleav'd to the branch; for *bigness*, som what more than half a grey pea. These, I say, cleave to their branches, as *patella* do to Rocks: For *colour*; they are of a very dark Chestnut, extremely smooth, and shining membran-like. They adhere most commonly to the under-side of a branch or twig, and so are best secur'd against the injuries of the weather, as too much Sun and Rain. They are well fastned to the branches single, and sometimes many in company. They are seldom found without vermin, as Pismires, &c. which, I guess, pierce them and pray upon them. Thus much for the entire *Coccum*. If you open one of them, that is, cut off dextrously the top of the husk with a rasor, you'll find sometimes five or more small white maggots of the Wasp or Bee-kind, that is, sharp at both ends. When these are carefully taken out, you will further observe the remainder of their provision of meat, and a partition 'twixt them and the branch, where, what they excerne, is reserv'd. Lastly, if, when you have clear'd the Husk of Maggots, Bee-meat, and excrements, you then rub the empty membran upon white paper, it will freely and copiously tinge the paper with a beautiful purple or murrey. At the *date* of this, none of the Maggots were yet in *nympha*, so that you cannot expect from me a description of the Bee or Wasp they will turn to, when they come to perfection. Before the season be over, the Curious may satisfy themselves forthwith about it, and verifie and improve it. Few *Cherry-trees*, I suppose, in any place, but will yield them some of these Berries. However, if they shall not be so fortunate as to light on them, I shall furnish you with them, &c.

---

#### E R R A T A.

*Pag.* 2148. *l.* 17. *r.* it is. *p.* 2153, *l.* 15. *r.* Bæotia.

---

L O N D O N,

Printed for *John Martyn*, Printer to the *Royal-Society*. 1671.